



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, BURNETT, DOUGLAS, IRON, PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER, TAYLOR, WASHBURN

October
2004

Unemployment rates decline in September

Unemployment rates tumbled in the counties of Northwest Wisconsin in September. The unemployment rate for the region dropped from 4.7 percent in August to 4.1 percent in September and is lower than the rate of 4.5 percent of one year ago.

The unemployment rate dropped when the number of residents looking for summer jobs declined. There were 600 fewer counted among the unemployed

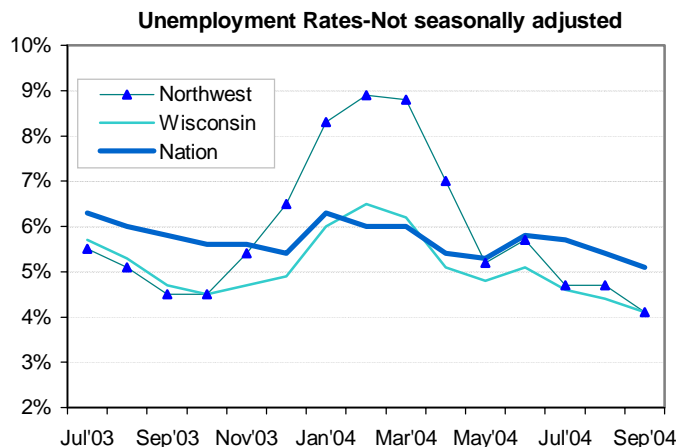
when the estimate dropped to 3,990 from 4,580 in August. While a few may have found employment in the area the vast number of job seekers left the labor market and more than likely returned to school.

The number of residents in Northwest Wisconsin with jobs also declined in September from 93,925 in August to 92,290. Most of the loss was due to the end of summer jobs and most of the workers

from those jobs did not look for other employment but dropped out of the labor market. The result of fewer employed and unemployed was a reduction in labor force of over 2,200 participants. The smaller labor force, with fewer unemployed job seekers, produced the lower unemployment rate.

The end of summer jobs is a seasonal event that occurs every year in all counties in the state. But because summer jobs are more significant in the northwest the drop in local unemployment rates is more dramatic.

Unemployment rates declined in 65 of the state's 72 counties in September but some of the largest reductions occurred in Iron, Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas counties. The greatest loss of jobs in these counties occurred with leisure and hospitality employers. However, the loss of jobs with leisure and hospitality employers occurred in each of the ten counties in the northwest and that added to a total loss of 750 jobs in the region. Even though employers in this industry reduced payroll in September there are still over 8,700 jobs



	Jul'03	Aug'03	Sep'03	Jul'04	Aug'04	Sep'04
Northwest	5.5%	5.1%	4.5%	4.7%	4.7%	4.1%
Wisconsin	5.7%	5.3%	4.7%	4.6%	4.4%	4.1%
Nation	6.3%	6.0%	5.8%	5.7%	5.4%	5.1%

Civilian Labor Force Estimates* for Northwest Wisconsin counties: September 2004

	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03
Labor force	8,526	8,996	8,342	7,793	8,158	7,559	8,122	8,182	7,946	23,863	23,961	23,513	3,362	3,436	3,359
Employed	8,121	8,438	7,870	7,473	7,764	7,242	7,800	7,841	7,680	22,826	22,778	22,443	3,200	3,227	3,171
Unemployed	405	558	472	320	394	317	322	341	266	1,037	1,183	1,070	162	209	188
% unemployed	4.8	6.2	5.7	4.1	4.8	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.3	4.3	4.9	4.6	4.8	6.1	5.6

	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03
Labor force	7,116	7,236	7,087	7,020	7,077	6,887	10,878	11,410	10,522	11,128	11,333	11,105	8,467	8,717	8,350
Employed	6,859	6,949	6,741	6,697	6,739	6,564	10,516	11,011	10,098	10,690	10,839	10,705	8,106	8,339	7,926
Unemployed	257	287	346	323	338	323	362	399	424	438	494	400	361	378	424
% unemployed	3.6	4.0	4.9	4.6	4.8	4.7	3.3	3.5	4.0	3.9	4.4	3.6	4.3	4.3	5.1

* not seasonally adjusted

Industry Employment Estimates for Northwest Wisconsin: Current month - September 2004

(Employment in thousands)	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03
Total Nonfarm	8.9	9.1	8.7	4.2	4.4	4.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	18.3	17.7	18.0	2.3	2.3	2.3
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.3
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3
Trade	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Transportation & Utilities	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.2	2.2	2.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Financial Activities	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.7	2.4	2.5	2.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	2.9	3.0	3.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Government	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	3.1	2.3	3.0	0.4	0.4	0.4

	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03	Sep '04	Aug '04	Sep '03
Total Nonfarm	6.6	6.6	6.5	5.9	5.8	5.8	7.4	7.6	7.1	9.3	9.2	9.3	6.3	6.4	6.1
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Manufacturing	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.5	0.6	0.5	2.8	2.8	2.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.0
Transportation & Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2
Financial Activities	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Education & Health Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8
Leisure & Hospitality	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.8
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.4	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total Government	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.3	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2003 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

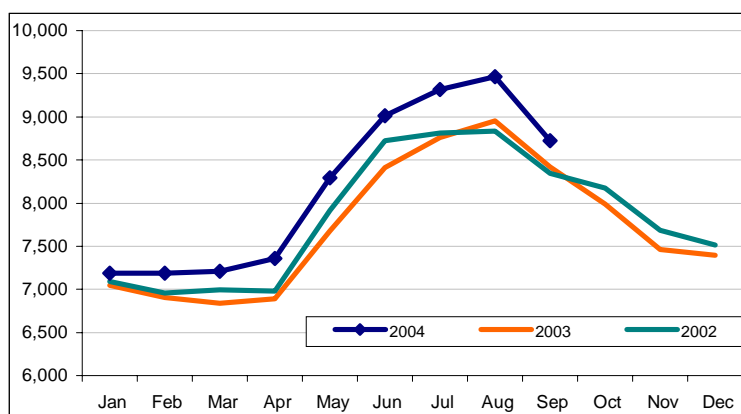
in leisure and hospitality and that's 300 more than one year ago.

Employment with trade employers declined by 200 jobs, the second largest reduction in the region. Some reduction, mostly seasonal, occurred in every county and is also related to the end of the summer tourism traffic. Here too employment remains higher than one year ago but only by 100 jobs.

Roughly one in every four jobs in the region is currently with an employer in leisure and hospitality or trade. Every year from May to August these employers in the northwest region add roughly 2,900 jobs. In most years employers add more jobs than they drop at the end of summer. So, even though we can anticipate further reductions in trade, and leisure and hospitality, employers are on-track to end 2004 with more jobs than at the end of 2003.

Year-to-date there are 1,300 more jobs with

Leisure & Hospitality Jobs in Northwest



all employers than one year ago. All industries, except manufacturing, report an increase in the total number of jobs. There are still 12,100 manufacturing jobs in the region but that is still 200 fewer than last September.

Manufacturing employment in the state is higher than one year ago in spite of a loss in September. Seasonal swings are typical in manufacturing just as they are in leisure and hospitality

and had an impact of the state labor force. The loss of jobs resulted in a reduction both in the number of employed and unemployed. The state unemployment rate dropped from 4.4 percent in August to 4.1 percent in September, not seasonally adjusted. However, when seasonal trends are factored in the unemployment rate in the state increased over the month from 4.8 to 5.0 percent.



Find the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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